**Ladybank Schoolhouse**

**SS #6 (12th Line) ~ Built 1876**

468083 Concession 12 B, Osprey  
Map link:  
https://goo.gl/maps/NyWFWeNTZZNYmKik6  
private residence: https://airbnb.com/h/ladybank-schoolhouse

**Architecture:** The large oblong room topped by a gable roof and bell is typical of one-room schoolhouses. Originally the east wall had an identical bank of windows, but these were removed in 1923 so that students would consistently have light coming in over their left shoulders. In converting to a private residence, the north east corner was partitioned to create a bedroom, a door was added to the north west corner and a window placed in the north wall. The enclosed entry porch originally had two doors to enter the classroom – one for girls, the other for boys, but one of these doorways was removed so that half the porch could become a bathroom and the interior wall would be a bank of kitchen cabinets. Otherwise, much of the interior and exterior doors, windows, floors, paneling & siding are original.

**History:** Education for their children was important to early pioneers, many of whom were illiterate. SS #6, 12th Line School at Ladybank was the first school in the northern part of Osprey Twp, first built 1858 at the SE corner of Rd 41 & Conc 12. Some of the early students had a 4 mile walk from Rob Roy until their own school was built a couple of years later.

In 1876, the original log schoolhouse was replaced by this surviving frame schoolhouse at a different location (lot 12 Conc. 13, north side of the road) on land settled mid-1850s by William Davidson and his family who originally emigrated from Scotland to Ontario in 1847.

In 1876 teachers at the new school earned $400 a year, out of which they paid $3.00 a week to board with Miss Ottawell whose family lived on the other side of the road.

For many years, the classroom at Ladybank held anywhere from 30 to 40+ students, but with declining attendance in the 1960’s, in June 1964 along with other one-room schools, Ladybank was closed, after which students attended Osprey Public School in Maxwell.

For more info see the Township of Osprey History book:  
p. 319-319 SS#6 12th Line; p. 975 Ladybank settlement; p. 799-802 Davidson family
Left: original entry door from porch
Below: original classroom windows

Above: interior floor; exterior siding w. square nail holes
Left: remainder of blackboard; Below: front entry porch
Below: restored bell; pump; heritage tree w. split rail fence